

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2008  
THIRD HOUSE, MONTAUK, N.Y.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip
John Fritz	Chairman, Trustee, Town of Babylon
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Todd Stebbins	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Gil Cardillo	Vice Chairman, Trustee, Town of Riverhead
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**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
William Sickles	Senior Superintendent of Parks
Karen Nicholson	Acting Superintendent of Parks
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

**GUESTS**

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Wayne Horsley	Suffolk County Legislator
Janet Longo	Deputy Director, Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Thomas Ryan	Office of Legislator Vilorio-Fisher

Chairman Fritz called the meeting to order.

**SOUTH BAY STREET PROPERTY- Incorporated Village of Lindenhurst**

Legislator Wayne Horsley discussed the proposed acquisition of the South Bay Street Property in the Incorporated Village of Lindenhurst. This acquisition was tabled at the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Parks Trustees meeting. Legislator Horsley said he understood the Trustees initial gut reaction was to question "why should we give County monies to the Village of Lindenhurst for properties that they bought?" He explained the Village of Lindenhurst purchased this property because of existing erosion problems. At that time, the Village was given a verbal commitment from former Legislator Bishop that the County would purchase this property from the Village. Legislator Horsley said he understands the Trustees

concerns about this acquisition and their question of why should we purchase property from a municipality, but he said this is more about the County's word.

This property is proposed to be acquired under the Old 1/4 % Drinking Water Law which has dedicated monies to purchases within the Town of Babylon and will expand Shore Road Park in the Village of Lindenhurst for passive recreational purposes only. Legislator Horsley hopes the Trustees will support this acquisition.

The Trustees suggested the Village of Lindenhurst provide and/or answer the following:

1. A proposed site plan for the property.
2. Written document stating County residents can use this property and there will be:
  - a. no fees
  - b. no permits required
  - c. no restrictions of access
3. Is this property dedicated parkland? Village should provide a copy of the resolution. If this is dedicated parkland, does it have to go through State Legislature before it's sold?
4. Is the Village willing to absorb cost of erosion control?
5. Who removed the house that was on this property? Are there any potential contamination issues?

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

### **Lou Farr**

Mr. Farr thanked Bill Sickles for all his efforts and dedicated service to Suffolk County Parks and wished him a happy, healthy retirement.

Chairman Fritz announced that Will Young (Montauk Surfcasters), Warren Ferdinandsen Sr. and Suffolk Committee for Camping were present to wish Bill Sickles well in his retirement.

### **Larry Hines**

Mr. Hines worked with Bill Sickles for 32 years. It was a pleasure working with him and he wishes him the all the best in his retirement.

Chairman Fritz thanked Bill Sickles for such a long and pleasant relationship. He presented Bill Sickles with two gifts: one from the Trustees and one from the Sporting Advisory Board.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Corwin. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

## **PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE**

Lauretta Fischer proposed one acquisition. A colored site map was distributed describing the property.

### **Pine Barrens Core Addition – Gazza Property**

The acquisition of 9 lots which total 5.52 acres in Northampton, Remsenburg-Speonk, Westhampton, Town of Southampton. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5(E)(1)(b)).

Trustee Corwin mentioned that the easement conditions that apply to those parcels continue in effect once the County (or somebody) buys the residuals.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. Trustee Corwin abstained. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-1.**

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

### Westhampton Dunes

Commissioner Pavacic reported that we are proceeding to move ahead with the demolition of the house in Westhampton Dunes leaving the deck portion for future wildlife observation. One of the reasons for the delay was the need to obtain DEC permits because much of the property is tidal wetlands and it also needed asbestos removal.

### Smith Point Fishing Pier

The Commissioner reported that DPW is moving ahead with the re-bidding for this project.

### L.I. Dog

The Commissioner reported that Parks personnel recently met with L.I. Dog at field sites to review potential additional dog run areas.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### Parks Foundation

Chairman Fritz reported received a call from Jay Miller requesting reaffirmation of Trustee Corwin's appointment to the Parks Foundation Board.

**A motion appointing Ray Corwin to the Board of the Parks Foundation was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

### Charter Revision Committee

Trustee McKay reported the Suffolk County Charter Commission will be meeting and the Trustees have submitted their suggested Charter Revisions for the Commission's consideration. The Trustees suggested clarification on the role of the designated Trustees from the County Executive's Office and the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature. A copy of the Suggested Charter Revisions was sent to each Trustee.

Trustee Corwin reported he spoke with Terry Pearsall (who is working with the Charter Revision Commission). Mr. Pearsall suggested a Trustee's resolution would be helpful and also invited the Parks Trustees to attend a future meeting.

**A motion to endorse the Suggested Charter Revisions was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee White. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-2. Trustee Schilling and Trustee Stebbins abstained.**

### Parks Foundation

Chairman Fritz reported he received a phone call from Jay Miller, who serves on the Parks Foundation Board. Mr. Miller asked that the Trustees propose a project that the Foundation can sink their teeth into. One of the projects they discussed was the completion of Third House. Chairman Fritz asked Deputy Commissioner if she could explain the delay on this project.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported at the present time there must be a resolution from the Legislature to accept donations. If any group wants to raise funds on County parkland, there must be a Legislative resolution authorizing them to do so. The County was in the process of issuing an agreement between the Foundation and the County outlining the role of Tom Hroncich as the Director of the Foundation. Mr. Hroncich and Mr. Miller have asked the County to expand the scope of that agreement to allow the Foundation to raise money on parkland and also allow the Foundation to accept donations on behalf of the County. The County Attorney is presently expanding the scope of the agreement based on the recommendations of Mr. Miller. Once that is approved the Foundation can actually start raising funds for items like Third House.

#### Acting Superintendent of Parks

Chairman Fritz welcomed Karen Nicholson as Acting Superintendent of Parks.

#### 2009 Operating Budget

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that each Trustee was given a copy of the 2009 Operating Budget for their review and requested their approval of this budget.

**A motion to approve the 2009 Operating Budget was made by Trustee Stebbins and seconded by Trustee Dawson. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

#### ROUND TABLE

Trustee McKay reported he recently read an article in the The Long Islander, a local newspaper, regarding Coindre Hall and dog parks. Some of the neighbors are complaining about the dogs barking. Trustee McKay will try to obtain a copy of the article for the Trustees.

Nick Gibbons reported that the piping plovers are still nesting and the outer beach at Smith Point and Cupsogue will be closed for another 3 to 4 weeks.

Trustee Borden mentioned a newspaper article which was passed around to Trustees re Suffolk County being on the verge of acquiring additional environmentally sensitive land in Smithtown. Trustee Borden also stated how impressed he has always been with the professionalism of Parks staff, as well as other departments that provide support to the Trustees.

The Trustees and guests extended their best wishes and heartfelt thanks to retiring Senior Parks Superintendent, Bill Sickles.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hilary. Unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**